AUTOFILE MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

The CAI/ESF wafer supplied with your new stringy floppy has two program files and one data file. These programs are supplied both as a tool to use and as an example of how to utilize the power of your new stringy floppy.

Before trying to run these programs, please read and follow all the installation instructions outlined in the CAI/ESF manual. Once the CAI/ESF is operational insert the wafer into the stringy floppy drive. The command PRINT USR 10240 (ENTER) will bring up the ESF MENU. Touch (1) for "LOAD" and enter 1 for the file number. After the file is loaded, the ESF program returns to the MENU. If any errors have been encountered during the load, there will be a message above the MENU indicating the type of error (See the CAI/ESF operation manual). The best solution to an error is to try to load the program again.

After Autofile has been loaded, exit the ESF MENU by touching (4), then (RUN) (ENTER). The Autofile menu will appear. You can now select the option you wish. Each section will be covered, but first touch (6) for "CALL HELP".

HELP: The program will then ask "RUN HELP (Y/N) ?". Answer (Y) and CAI HELP will come up running and display another selection of options. Each option (1 through 7) contains specific information on the how the CAI/ESF system is used. For each selection the screen will display text concerning that option. At each screen you are asked "ANY KEY OR P)RINT ?". Touch (P) only if you have a CAI/P40 printer (other printers must change line 972). Selection 8 and 9 will call the ZX81 ESF MENU or exit back to Autofile, respectively. Selection zero is not displayed, but will exit to BASIC.

After reviewing the HELP files, press (9) followed by (A) to return to Autofile.

1) LOAD and RUN: This selection will ask only for the file number of the program to be run. When entered, the program will come up running. BE CAREFUL not to try to load and run a data file as this will cause the system to crash. This will not harm the tape but the computer will have to be reset. If you do not wish to LOAD a program after you have requested selection 1, simply enter zero or just (ENTER) for file number and the program will return to the MENU (see also Break discussion).

2) SAVE PROGRAM: This selection will save the Autofile program. This can be used if you wish to copy this program to another tape. DO NOT re-save this program to the wafer supplied.

5) READ: To load the data file, touch (5) from the Autofile menu. (If you press (3) before the file has been read, you are still asked to read a file.) After the data is read the program will return to the Autofile menu.

3) VIEW: Now press (3) to view the data. The data file will be displayed on the television screen. At the bottom of the screen the prompt asks " E)DIT P)RINT Q)UIT ?". Touch (Q) to return to the menu, (P) to print the screen if you have a CAI/P40 printer, or press (E) for edit.

EDIT: The the program will ask for "EDIT NUMBER: ". Enter a file number to edit. A new screen will appear, showing the line requested (description only; file size later) and the editing instructions. Use the ARROW keys for left, right, and insert. DO NOT TOUCH THE SPACE KEY!!! (See discussion about Break). The information is entered into the line below the star. Delete (shift-zero) will delete the character below the star and move all characters to the right of the star one space left. Insert (Arrow Up) will put a space at the star, and move all characters to the right of the star one space right. Touch any alpha-numeric key and that character will appear below the star, and the star will move one space right ready for the next character. The star can be moved either left or right by using the Arrow left or right.

FAST: The Arrow down can be used to put the computer into FAST mode. When Arrow down is pressed, a question mark "?" is placed in the space below the star. You will have to replace the (?) with the proper character, but the computer is now in FAST mode and will stay there until you return to the Autofile menu. If you touch Arrow down while at the Autofile menu, this will also enable FAST. However, from the menu you will not be able to tell it's in FAST right away. When you leave the menu you will notice the change. This feature is useful just before viewing a long list of files.

FINISH EDIT: If the star moves past the dashed line provided, the program will automatically enter the line. Or you may finish entering the description by pressing (ENTER). You next enter the program length in bytes. To complete the length, press (ENTER). The list of files will be re-displayed. The program will return to the prompt "E)DIT P)RINT Q)UIT ?". Press (Q) to return to the Autofile menu.

4) WRITE DATA: Touch (4) if you are ready to write this program's variables to another wafer. DO NOT re-write to the wafer supplied. You will be asked "WRITE FILE 2 (Y/N) ?". Pressing (N) will give you the option to write the data file to any file number. Pressing another (N) will return you to the menu.

BREAK: Both Autofile and CAI Help make extensive use of an INKEY$ routine. Should you (BREAK) out of either program, the safe restart is (RETURN) followed by (ENTER). Most of the time this brings back the prompt. If you (BREAK) while editing a description or length, (RETURN) will exit the edit and ask for "E)DIT P)RINT Q)UIT ?". If you exit either the Autofile or CAI HELP programs (selection 9 for Autofile, zero for CAI HELP) do not use RETURN to get back into the program. You can re-enter the program by using CONT, GOTO 200 ENTER, or RUN.

The Autofile program was written to demonstrate the flexiblity of the CAI/ESF. The data-file may be used as a directory for the ESF tapes and can handle up to 30 entries. Be forewarned, however, of writing Autofile's data-file to a tape as file one, loading up the tape with programs, then reading and editing all those programs into the file and re-writing the data-file back to file one. You may have no problem, you may blow away the second file (size of file one grew?) and you may clobber the rest of the tape. If you use Autofile to write directories on each tape, enter that tape's file info first, write file one, load up the tape, and write-protect the wafer. Then, with the following minor program change, you may load Autofile, have it read another tape's data, and execute any program from the list.

The following change may be made to the Autofile program. This will let you load and run a program from VIEW. You simply change line 555 to read:

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555 LET Q$="  E)DIT R)UN  P)RINT  Q)UIT ?"
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And add line 562:

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562 IF C$="R" THEN GOTO 310
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If (R) is entered the program will then ask for the file number. You simply enter the correct file number and the program will load and run automatically.

Another major use of Autofile is as an example of how to make the most of your CAI/ESF. The program does all the functions the stringy floppy can do except Certify (see HELP selection 6). Before you change all your programs to make use of the CAI/ESF, look through this program (list it to a printer) and see how the staff at CAI use the stringy floppy. If you have trouble seeing through the program's code, CAI will soon have available a line-by-line tutorial for the Autofile program.

To determine the size of the varible table when writing data-files you may find the following statement useful:

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PRINT (PEEK 16404+256*PEEK 16405)-(PEEK 16400+256*PEEK 16401)
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This is one of the last program lines in Autofile, along with one that prints the size of the program. See also chapter 26 of the ZX81 manual.